

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
SHERMAN DIVISION**

YOUNG CONSERVATIVES OF TEXAS §  
FOUNDATION §

*Plaintiff,* §

v. §

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS, THE §  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS SYSTEM, §  
NEAL SMATRESK, PRESIDENT OF THE §  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS and §  
SHANNON GOODMAN, VICE PRESIDENT §  
FOR ENROLLMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY §  
OF NORTH TEXAS; §

*Defendants.* §

CIVIL ACTION NO. 4:20-CV-973  
JUDGE SEAN D. JORDAN

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**PLAINTIFF’S RESPONSES TO DEFENDANTS’ FIRST INTERROGATORIES**

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Pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff Young Conservatives of Texas Foundation (YCT) by and through its counsel serves the following responses to Defendants, The University of North Texas; The University of North Texas System; Neal Smatresk, President of the University of North Texas; and Shannon Goodman, Vice President for Enrollment of the University of North Texas (collectively “UNT”).

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Chance Weldon

CHANCE WELDON

Texas Bar No. 24076767

cweldon@texaspolicy.com

ROBERT HENNEKE

Texas Bar No. 24046058

rhenneke@texaspolicy.com

CHRISTIAN TOWNSEND

Maryland Bar No. 2012180144

ctownsend@texaspolicy.com

TEXAS PUBLIC POLICY FOUNDATION

901 Congress Avenue  
Austin, Texas 78701  
Telephone: (512) 472-2700  
Facsimile: (512) 472-2728

*Attorneys for Plaintiff*

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing document was electronically served on December 13, 2021, via email to all counsel of record.

/s/Chance Weldon  
CHANCE WELDON

### **INTERROGATORIES**

1. Identify each and every individual (as defined above) who has assisted you with preparing your responses to these interrogatories.

**RESPONSE:** Plaintiff was assisted by counsel.

2. Identify each of the current members of YCT's University of North Texas Chapter, including full name, mailing address(es) (current and permanent), email address, telephone number, dates of attendance, expected graduation date, Texas residency status, and (if not Texas) state of permanent residence.

**RESPONSE:** Plaintiff objects that this request is unduly broad, overly burdensome, harassing, irrelevant, and not tailored to the needs of this case. Moreover, this request attempts to solicit private membership information in violation YCT's First Amendment rights, and no response is required. Subject to and without waiving these objections, Plaintiff will produce the far more limited information necessary to establish standing under a protective order appropriate to this case.

3. Identify each and every one of your members who are non-resident students at UNT and directly harmed by Texas Education Code § 54.051(d) as alleged in paragraph 1 of your Original Petition, including full name, mailing address(es) (current and permanent), email address, telephone number, dates of attendance, expected graduation date, Texas residency status, and (if not Texas) state of permanent residence.

**RESPONSE:** Plaintiff objects that this request is unduly broad, overly burdensome, harassing, irrelevant, and not tailored to the needs of this case. Moreover, this request attempts to solicit private membership information in violation YCT's First Amendment rights, and no response is required. Subject to and without waiving these objections,

Plaintiff will produce the far more limited information necessary to establish standing under a protective order appropriate to this case.

4. Identify YCT members who are unlawfully charged non-resident tuition and state the basis for that contention, including full name, mailing address(es) (current and permanent), email address, telephone number, dates of attendance, expected graduation date, Texas residency status, and (if not Texas) state of permanent residence.

**RESPONSE:** Plaintiff objects that this request is unduly broad, overly burdensome, harassing, irrelevant, and not tailored to the needs of this case. Moreover, this request attempts to solicit private membership information in violation YCT's First Amendment rights, and no response is required. Subject to and without waiving these objections, Plaintiff will produce the far more limited information necessary to establish standing under a protective order appropriate to this case.

5. Explain the basis for your assertion that the UNT Defendants charge aliens who are not lawfully present in the United States lower tuition than non-resident citizens, as alleged in paragraph 20 of your Original Complaint.

**RESPONSE:** Plaintiff objects that the basis of this contention is clear from the face of the complaint and the other pleadings currently on file in this case, which are equally available to the Defendants and incorporated here by reference. To the extent further explanation is necessary, Plaintiff notes that state law defines residency in such a way that allows aliens who are not lawfully present in the United States to qualify as residents for tuition purposes, and UNT has made clear that its admission policies comply with state law. UNT also provides instructions on its website explicitly inviting undocumented immigrants to apply



for resident tuition. Plaintiff also notes that discovery is ongoing and reserves the right to supplement this answer.

6. Identify and explain the basis for calculating any and all economic injuries allegedly suffered by YCT members.

**RESPONSE:** It is undisputed that the cost of attendance for resident students at UNT is lower than that for non-resident students. YCT has members that are united states citizens forced to pay non-resident tuition.

7. Provide a breakdown of all alleged economic damages suffered by YCT's members resulting from the application of Texas Education Code § 54.051(d), as described in paragraphs 1 and 18 of your Original Petition.

**RESPONSE:** Plaintiff objects that this request is unduly broad, overly burdensome, harassing, irrelevant, and not tailored to the needs of this case. Plaintiff is not seeking damages in this case, and it is undisputed that non-resident tuition is more expensive than resident tuition, which is sufficient to establish injuries for standing. Moreover, this request attempts to solicit YCT's private membership information in violation YCT's First Amendment rights, and no response is required.

8. Explain how the requirement to pay nonresident tuition under Section 54.051(d) inflicts imminent, irreparable harm on Plaintiff, as alleged in paragraph 39 of your Original Petition.

**RESPONSE:** Plaintiff objects that the answer to this question is clear from the face of the complaint and Plaintiff's other pleadings in this case which are equally available to Defendants and incorporated here by reference. To the extent further explanation is needed,

requiring YCT's members to pay nonresident tuition under Section 54.051(d) is unconstitutional. Violations of Constitutional rights are *per se* irreparable harm. Moreover, the cost of non-resident tuition is significantly more expensive than resident tuition. Due to sovereign immunity, these increased costs will likely be unrecoverable and therefore irreparable.

9. Identify and describe the official actions you seek enjoinder against the UNT Defendants.

**RESPONSE:** Plaintiff objects that the answer to this question is clear from the face of the complaint and Plaintiff's other pleadings in this case which are equally available to Defendants and incorporated here by reference. To the extent further explanation is needed Plaintiff seeks to enjoin Defendants, as well as any and all agents, administrators, employees, and other persons acting on behalf of Defendants, from applying Section 54.051(d), or taking any action based on Section 54.051(d), to assess higher tuition to non-resident students than resident students.

10. Explain how an injunction against the UNT Defendants would redress the alleged harm caused by application of Texas Education Code § 54.051(d) to YCT's members, as alleged in Paragraph 44 of your Original Petition.

**RESPONSE:** It would prevent UNT from unlawfully assessing tuition and fees against YCT's members in violation of the Constitution.

11. Identify and explain the specific terms of the injunction you seek against the UNT Defendants.

**RESPONSE:** Plaintiff objects that the answer to this question is clear from the face of the complaint and Plaintiff's other pleadings in this case which are equally available to Defendants and incorporated here by reference. To the extent further explanation is needed Plaintiff seeks:

- a. A declaration that Section 54.051(d) of the Texas Education Code, as applied to United States citizens, is unconstitutional because it is preempted by federal law, invalid, and of no force or effect;
  - b. A declaration that the legal determinations and resulting actions taken by Defendant Smatresk or Defendant Goodman in charging nonresident tuition to United States citizens are incompatible with federal law and thus without legal authority, invalid, and of no force or effect;
  - c. An injunction against Defendants, as well as any and all agents, administrators, employees, and other persons acting on behalf of Defendants, enjoining the application of Section 54.051(d) of the Texas Education Code to United States citizens;
  - d. An award to Plaintiff of its attorneys' fees and reasonable costs; and
  - e. All other and further relief that the Court may deem proper in law or equity.
12. Explain how an injunction against UNT officials will advance the principles of constitutional governance, as alleged in paragraph 19 of your Original Petition.

**RESPONSE:** Plaintiff seeks to enjoin the enforcement of an unconstitutional law with a direct impact on YCT, its members, and its policy goals. Enjoining unconstitutional actions by University Officials advances principles of constitutional governance. Additionally, the particular violation of the Constitution at issue in this case involves tuition, higher

education, Federalism, illegal immigration, and other issues that are important to YCT's mission.

13. Explain how an injunction against UNT officials will lower tuition costs, as alleged in paragraph 19 of your original petition.

**RESPONSE:** It is undisputed that non-resident tuition is more expensive than resident tuition.

14. Explain how an injunction against UNT officials will expand access to the American dream for United States citizens, as alleged in paragraph 19 of your Original Petition.

**RESPONSE:** The high cost of tuition is a major driver of student debt. The increased cost of public education places barriers on the ability of students to pursue their dreams. Moreover, a key facet of the American dream is to live in a country governed by laws, not men. The application of an unconstitutional law at a public university is therefore contrary to the American dream. Accordingly, enjoining UNT officials from enforcing an unconstitutional law that makes tuition more expensive for non-resident students advances the American dream.

15. Identify and explain all YCT organizational resources impacted by the application of Texas Education Code § 54.051(d) to your members, as described in paragraphs 1 and 19–22 of your Original Petition.

**RESPONSE:** Plaintiff has amended its complaint to remove the allegations referenced in this request. No further response is required.

16. Explain how Plaintiff's "organizational efforts to combat the requirement for certain United States citizens to pay more in tuition than resident aliens who are not lawfully present in the United States has resulted in a drain on the organization's resources," as alleged in paragraph 21 of your Original Petition.

**RESPONSE:** Plaintiff has amended its complaint to remove the allegations referenced in this request. No further response is required.

17. Identify in dollar amounts the organizational resources allocated for advocacy on policy related to higher education tuition, specifying the dollar amounts for each advocacy activity and/or expenditure.

**RESPONSE:** Plaintiff has amended its complaint to remove the allegations referenced in this request. No further response is required.

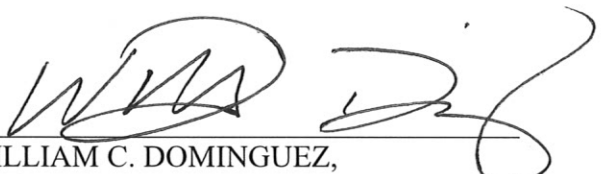
18. Explain the basis for your contention that "Plaintiff's efforts to combat the requirement for certain United States citizens to pay more in tuition than resident aliens who are not lawfully present in the United States impose a unique injury on Plaintiff that is distinct from injuries suffered by the general public," as alleged in paragraph 22 of your Original Petition.

**RESPONSE:** Plaintiff has amended its complaint to remove the allegations referenced in this request. No further response is required.

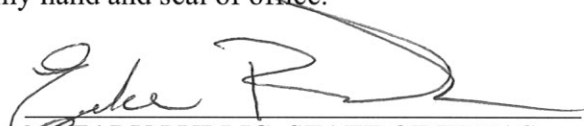
STATE OF TEXAS           §  
  §  
COUNTY OF Dallas §

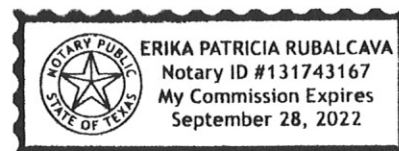
**VERIFICATION**

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared William C. Dominguez, who being by me duly sworn upon his oath deposed and said he has read the foregoing interrogatories and responses and that the statements contained therein are within his personal knowledge are true and correct.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
WILLIAM C. DOMINGUEZ,  
CHAIRMAN, YOUNG CONSERVATIVES  
OF TEXAS  
BOARD MEMBER, YOUNG  
CONSERVATIVES OF TEXAS  
FOUNDATION

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME, Erika Rubalcava this 13<sup>th</sup>  
day of December, 2021, to certify which, witness my hand and seal of office.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF TEXAS



**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
SHERMAN DIVISION**

YOUNG CONSERVATIVES OF TEXAS §  
FOUNDATION §

*Plaintiff,* §

v. §

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS, THE §  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS SYSTEM, §  
NEAL SMATRESK, PRESIDENT OF THE §  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS and §  
SHANNON GOODMAN, VICE PRESIDENT §  
FOR ENROLLMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY §  
OF NORTH TEXAS; §

*Defendants.* §

CIVIL ACTION NO. 4:20-CV-973  
JUDGE SEAN D. JORDAN

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**PLAINTIFF’S RESPONSE TO DEFENDANTS’ FIRST REQUEST FOR PRODUCTION**

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Pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff Young Conservatives of Texas Foundation (YCT) by and through its counsel serves the following responses to Defendants, The University of North Texas; The University of North Texas System; Neal Smatresk, President of the University of North Texas; and Shannon Goodman, Vice President for Enrollment of the University of North Texas (collectively “UNT”).

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Chance Weldon

CHANCE WELDON

Texas Bar No. 24076767

cweldon@texaspolicy.com

ROBERT HENNEKE

Texas Bar No. 24046058

rhenneke@texaspolicy.com

CHRISTIAN TOWNSEND

Maryland Bar No. 2012180144

ctownsend@texaspolicy.com

TEXAS PUBLIC POLICY FOUNDATION

901 Congress Avenue  
Austin, Texas 78701  
Telephone: (512) 472-2700  
Facsimile: (512) 472-2728

*Attorneys for Plaintiff*

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing document was electronically served on December 13, 2021, via email to all counsel of record.

/s/Chance Weldon  
CHANCE WELDON



**REQUESTS FOR PRODUCTION**

1. Produce all documents identified in, referred to, considered, reviewed, relied on, or used in preparing your answers to Defendant's First Set of Interrogatories to Plaintiff or that evidence, describe, or refer to any facts stated in response to those interrogatories.

**RESPONSE:** Plaintiff objects that this request is vague, overbroad, unduly burdensome, not tailored to the needs of this case, and seeks information protected by the attorney client privilege, work product privilege, and the First Amendment.

2. Produce any and all written statements you have obtained from any individual regarding their knowledge of the facts relevant to this lawsuit.

**RESPONSE:** Plaintiff objects that this request is vague, overbroad, unduly burdensome, not tailored to the needs of this case, seeks information equally available to Defendants and seeks information protected by the attorney client privilege, work product privilege, and the First Amendment.

3. Produce all documents received from any third party, whether by subpoena or otherwise, which concern or relate to the claims or allegations in this Lawsuit.

**RESPONSE:** Plaintiff objects that this request is vague, overbroad, unduly burdensome, not tailored to the needs of this case, and seeks information protected by the attorney client privilege, work product privilege. Subject to and without waiving this objection, Plaintiff has not served any third-party subpoenas in this case.

4. Produce all documents and communications constituting a membership list and/or directory information for all current members of YCT's University of North Texas Chapter.

**RESPONSE:** Plaintiff objects that this request is unduly broad, overly burdensome, harassing, irrelevant, and not tailored to the needs of this case. Moreover, this request attempts to solicit private membership information in violation YCT's First Amendment rights, and no response is required. Subject to and without waiving these objections, Plaintiff will produce the far more limited information necessary to establish standing under a protective order appropriate to this case.

5. Produce all documents and communications relating to your contention that the UNT Defendants charge resident aliens who are not lawfully present in the United States lower tuition than non-resident citizens, as alleged in paragraph 20 of your Original Complaint.

**RESPONSE:** Responsive documents are attached as Bates Nos. YCT00001-36.

6. Produce all documents relating to YCT's operational budget and expenditures for the last five fiscal years.

**RESPONSE:** Plaintiff objects that this request is unduly broad, overly burdensome, harassing, irrelevant, and not tailored to the needs of this case. Moreover, this request attempts to solicit information in violation YCT's First Amendment rights, and no response is required.

7. Produce all documents evidencing the "drain" on YCT's organizational resources, as alleged in paragraph 22 of your Original Petition.

**RESPONSE:** Plaintiff has amended its complaint to remove the allegations referenced in this request. No further response is required.

8. Produce all documents evidencing YCT's expenditures for advocacy on policy related to "organizational efforts to combat the requirement for certain United States citizens to pay more in tuition than resident aliens who are not lawfully present in the United States," as described in paragraphs 20–22 of your Original Petition.

**RESPONSE:** Plaintiff has amended its complaint to remove the allegations referenced in this request. No further response is required.



University of North Texas (<http://www.unt.edu>)

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## Non-U.S. Citizen Basing Residency on Self

***F1 visa holders are not eligible to domicile in the US per the US Immigration office, therefore, a student holding an F1 visa would not be eligible to apply for in-state residency for tuition purposes.***

A non-U.S. citizen is entitled to classification as a resident for tuition purposes through one of several ways:

## High School Graduation in Texas

To be classified as a resident based on graduating from a Texas high school, the person must meet the below criteria and provide supporting evidence:

1. Graduate from a high school in Texas
2. Physically reside in Texas for 36 consecutive months immediately preceding high school graduation
3. Physically reside in Texas for 12 consecutive months immediately preceding the census date of the semester in which the student enrolls in a Texas public college or university



YCT00001

# Establishment and Maintenance of Domicile

To be classified as a resident based on being an independent who has established and maintained domicile in Texas, the person must provide the following:

1. Proof of physical residence in Texas for the previous 12 consecutive months; and
2. Proof of the establishment and maintenance of domicile in Texas for a period of 12 consecutive months. Although not conclusive or exhaustive, the following factors occurring throughout a consecutive 12-month period prior to the census date of the semester in which a person seeks to enroll may lend support to a claim regarding his/her intent to establish domicile in Texas:
  1. Significant gainful employment in Texas that represents at an average of at least twenty hours per week or is sufficient to provide at least one-half of the individual's tuition and living expenses
  2. Sole or joint-marital ownership of residential real property in Texas that is their primary residence
  3. Ownership and customary management of a business entity in Texas without the intention of liquidation for the foreseeable future
  4. Marriage to a person who has resided and maintained domicile (see above items) in Texas

## Waivers

Students who may not meet the above requirements to be reclassified as a resident for tuition purposes may still qualify for a tuition waiver to pay the in-state tuition rate. Further information on tuition waivers can be found via the Student Financial Services website: <https://sfs.unt.edu/waivers-and-exemptions>

The student may not be classified as a resident for tuition purposes unless he/she holds a current immigration status that is eligible to domicile in the United States and has resided in Texas a minimum of 12 consecutive months. The following non-U.S. Citizens who are eligible to establish a domicile in Texas under the law and can obtain Texas residency, if they meet the basic residency requirements, are listed below: *(Appropriate document will be required.)*

Permanent Residents (I-551) or document showing extension of this card

Holder of the I-766 card that has not expired



Holder of the I-688, I-688a or I-699b card that has not expired

YCT00002

Letter from INS showing approval under the visa diversity (lottery) program

Notice of Action (I-797) showing **approved**, or letter from INS showing grant of deferred action status

Copy of fee receipt issued by INS when the petition was filed

Holder of the I-485 – The application to register Permanent Residence or adjust status

Refugees, Asylees, Parolees, Conditional Permanent Residents (holding I-551 cards which have not expired), Temporary Residents (holding I-688, I-688a, or I-688b cards which have not expired)

Holder of one of the following visa types (A-1, A-2 who is a dependent of A-1, A-3, E-1, E-2, G-1, G-2, G-3, G-4, G-5, H-1B, I, K-1, K-2, K-3, K-4, L-1, L1-a, L1-b, L-2, NATO 1-7, O-1, O-3 who is a dependent of O-1, R-1, R-2, T-1, T-2, T-3, T-4, U-1, U-2, U-3, U-4, V-1, V-2, V-3

F1 visa holders are not eligible to domicile in the US per the US Immigration office, therefore, a student holding an F1 visa would not be eligible to apply for in-state residency for tuition purposes.

Special note to students who are undocumented and who do not have college work prior to Fall 2001: Please contact the Office of Admissions for additional information. You may qualify for Texas residency under HB 1403. SB 1528

Below is the Documentation to Support Domicile and Residency PDF. For examples of documentation that may help substantiate establishment of domicile, see Part A. For examples of documentation that may help substantiate physical residence in Texas, please see Part B.

#### **Documentation to Support Domicile and Residency (pdf)**

**([//registrar.unt.edu/sites/default/files/documentation-to-support-domicile-and-residency.pdf](http://registrar.unt.edu/sites/default/files/documentation-to-support-domicile-and-residency.pdf))**

**Residency Affidavit (pdf) ([//registrar.unt.edu/sites/default/files/residency-affidavit-SB1528.pdf](http://registrar.unt.edu/sites/default/files/residency-affidavit-SB1528.pdf))**

#### **Request to Update University Records - Visa Status (pdf)**

**([//registrar.unt.edu/sites/default/files/change\\_of\\_eis\\_status\\_request\\_04302019.pdf](http://registrar.unt.edu/sites/default/files/change_of_eis_status_request_04302019.pdf))**

To begin the process of applying for Residency Reclassification, submit an Ask Now question through the **Scrappy Says website (<https://scrappysays.unt.edu>)**. A Residency Counselor will follow up with you on next steps in the process.

**It is the student's responsibility to determine if the above guidelines are in effect when applying for residency.**



YCT00003



(<https://scrappysays.unt.edu>)

## Questions? Scrappy has answers!

### Scrappy Says

(<https://scrappysays.unt.edu>) is your online resource for help topics about course registration, records, financial aid, your student account and more. Find answers or schedule an appointment today!

(<http://social.unt.edu>)





**(<https://www.unt.edu>)**

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## Office of the Registrar



**Scrappy Says (<https://scrappysays.unt.edu>)**

**📍 Eagle Student Services Building (<https://goo.gl/maps/L33xPm1AoQw>)**

**✉ 1155 Union Circle #311400**

**Denton, Texas 76203-1400**

**🚗 Visitor Information (<https://www.unt.edu/community>)**

**940-565-2111**



**YCT00005**



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# OVERVIEW

## Residency and In-State Tuition

### Who pays in-state tuition?

Persons classified as residents for higher education purposes under Texas law may pay in-state tuition. Although the State of Texas does not have any programs specifically for undocumented students, some undocumented persons are among those who are eligible for in-state tuition under current residency statutes. The residency statutes for higher education purposes have evolved somewhat over the past 7 years.

### What is House Bill 1403 (passed by the 77th Texas Legislature in 2001)?

House Bill 1403 granted certain non-immigrant students, including undocumented students, access to in-state tuition rates at Texas public institutions of higher education and state financial aid. To qualify, the bill required students to have:

- resided in Texas with a parent or guardian while attending high school in Texas,
- graduated from a public or private high school or received a GED in Texas,
- resided in Texas for the three years leading to graduation or receipt of a GED, and
- provided their institutions a signed affidavit indicating an intent to apply for permanent resident status as soon as able to do so.

The bill passed and was codified as Texas Education Code (TEC) 54.052(j).

### What were the implications of HB 1403?

This law allowed individuals who were not permanent residents or citizens of the United States to be classified as residents for higher education purposes if they met the requirements outlined above and provided their institutions an affidavit indicating they would apply for permanent residence as soon as they were eligible to do so.

Numerous visas issued by the federal government allow *documented* individuals to reside in the United States. If these individuals met the requirements outlined above, they were residents of Texas by state law. Undocumented students also could be classified as residents if they met those requirements.

### Were there any legal problems with HB 1403?

During the years when TEC 54.052(j) was in effect, there were claims made that it was unconstitutional and could be the basis of a lawsuit since it allowed certain individuals to be treated differently than others. This situation changed with the passage of SB 1528, 79th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, effective September 1, 2005. This bill repealed the old residency statutes, including TEC 54.052(j), applicable to students beginning in spring 2006.

### What is Senate Bill 1528 (passed by the 79th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, in 2005)?

Senate Bill 1528 amended the provisions of House Bill 1403 so that they applied to all individuals who had lived in Texas a significant part of their lives. Citizens, Permanent Residents and certain non-immigrant students could establish a claim to residency following its provisions. To qualify, the individual must have:

- lived in Texas the 3 years leading up to high school graduation or the receipt of a GED; and

- o resided in Texas the year prior to enrollment in an institution of higher education (which could overlap the 3-year period).

In addition, if the student was not a U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident, he/she had to file an affidavit with his/her institution, indicating an intent to apply for Permanent Resident status as soon as able to do so. The bill passed and was codified as TEC 54.052 through 54.056.

### **What are the implications of SB 1528?**

As with House Bill 1403, the new statute, passed in 2005, allows certain international students to establish a claim to residency for higher education purposes. In addition, it allows US Citizens or Permanent Residents to establish an independent claim to residency based on graduation from high school or the completion of its equivalent after residing in the state for at least 36 months. The fact that this provision applies to all high school graduates relieves the state of any threat of a law suit based on preferential treatment. More importantly, it allows high school graduates to establish their own basis of residency by having lived here for the three years leading up to graduation.

In the past, students born and raised in Texas but whose parents moved out of state before they had enrolled in college were statutorily classified as nonresidents, whether they had ever lived outside the state or not. Students raised by grandparents or other family members who had never gone to court to acquire legal custody were considered residents of the state in which their biological parents lived, whether or not those parents were in any way involved in their upbringing. The new provisions of TEC 54.052(a)(3) enable these students, and all other students who graduate from high school in Texas under the prescribed conditions, to be classified as residents and allow them to enroll while paying the resident tuition rate. It is important to note that the statute indicates these students are not nonresidents who are getting to pay the resident rate due to a waiver of nonresident tuition. They are classified as *bone fide* residents under current statutes.

### **How many students has this affected?**

The number of students qualifying under these provisions is relatively small. The full population of students reported as residents under the residency provisions of TEC 54.052(a)(3) totaled 9,062 students in fall 2007. The state's public institution total enrollment that term was 1,102,572. Therefore, the TEC 54.052(a)(3) students represented slightly more than eight tenths of one percent of the public institution enrollment.

### **For more information:**

Office of External Relations  
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board  
[er@thecb.state.tx.us](mailto:er@thecb.state.tx.us)  
[www.thecb.state.tx.us/Agency/Topics.cfm](http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/Agency/Topics.cfm)  
(512) 427-6111





# UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS DREAMERS' RESOURCE GUIDE

YCT00009





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**Dear Future Eagle,**

On behalf of the University of North Texas, I would like to thank you for submitting your application for the 2018-2019 academic year! My name is Rebeca, I am an Assistant Director here at UNT and I will be your personal point of contact throughout your admissions process. At UNT, we know that applying to college can be a confusing process and undocumented and DACA students are required to take some additional steps to complete their application.

In light of this, I am pleased to present you with your UNT Application Toolkit!

In the attached links and documents, you will find:

- An individualized schedule of steps needed to complete your enrollment process at UNT
- Senate Bill 1528 Affidavits, which must be signed, notarized and returned to UNT Admissions and Financial Aid via fax, email, or mail.
- Information on the TASFA application for state financial aid
- UNT Admissions contact information
- A list of campus resources for DACA and SB 1528 students.

I hope that you will find this information useful on your journey towards becoming a part of the Mean Green Family. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns you may have.

With **Green** Pride,

Rebeca Perfecto

Assistant Director – Freshman Recruitment

940-565-2681

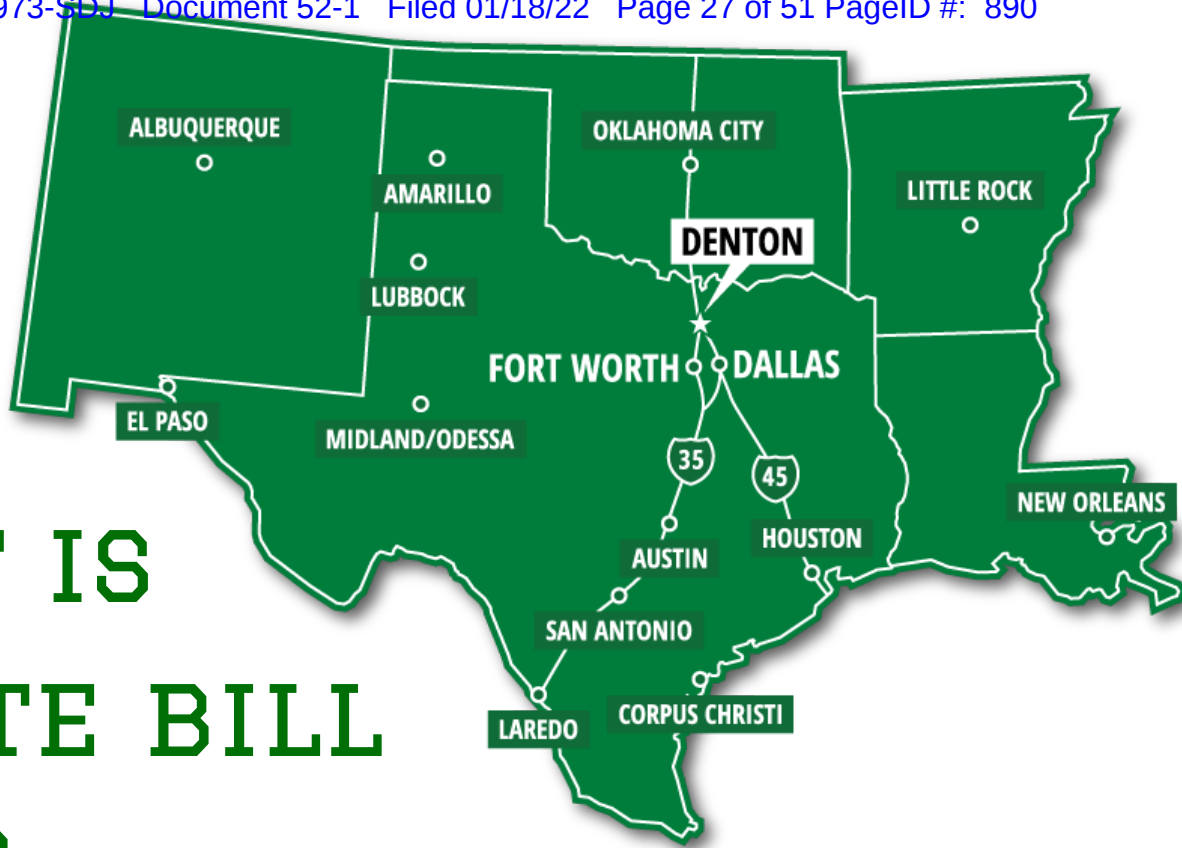
UNT.Freshman@unt.edu

YCT00010

# **Content**

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- What is Senate Bill 1528?**
- What is DACA?**
- How to Apply as an SB- 1528 Student**
- How to answer citizenship questions on Applytexas.org**
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- What is TASFA? – Financial Aid and Scholarship Information**
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- Student Loans Information**
- Outside Scholarships**
- Resources at UNT by Colleges**
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- Appendix A - Residency and Citizenship information on Applytexas**



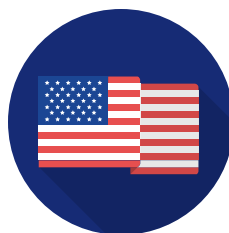
# WHAT IS SENATE BILL 1528?

- Certain unauthorized immigrants are eligible to enroll in Texas public colleges and pay in-state tuition. In 2001, the Texas Legislature passed a bill that states that these students may be eligible for state grants. Eligible students **MUST** meet certain criteria provided in the legislation to be considered for Senate Bill 1528 status.
- Any person, regardless of immigration status, who: 1) Graduated from a Texas public or accredited private high school, AND 2) Resided in Texas the 36 months immediately preceding the date of graduation or receipt of the diploma equivalent, AND 3) Resided in Texas the 12 consecutive months preceding the census date of the academic semester in which the person enrolls in an institution is entitled to classification as a resident for tuition purposes.
- Students who are not U.S. Citizens, U.S. legal permanent residents, or eligible noncitizens do not qualify for federal financial assistance to pay for college.
- Under SB1528 students are eligible to receive a variety of forms of state financial aid, but first must fill out the Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA).
- In order to be classified as in-state under 1528 students who meet the above requirements must turn in the notarized SB 1528 Affidavit to the admissions office.

# WHAT IS DACA

## Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals

DACA was an executive action taken by President Barack Obama which allowed undocumented immigrants who came to the US under the age of 16 to apply for protection from deportation. After completing a background check, those individuals were able to receive two-year permits to work and study in the US as well. Since 2012, roughly 800,000 people were protected by the program, and roughly 700,000 had active DACA protections. Please visit [unt.edu/DACA](http://unt.edu/DACA) for updates.





# SB 1528 How to Apply

## Before Applying

Begin researching schools and majors with your counselor or transfer center representative. Schedule an appointment with your high school/ college counselor or Go Center to make sure you qualify for SB 1528. If your counselor is not familiar with SB 1528 ask them to contact your admissions representative at UNT for more information. Their information is located in the Tool Kit Welcome Letter.

## Non-Immigrant Freshman Student Application Instructions

1. Go to the ApplyTexas website at [www.applytexas.org](http://www.applytexas.org)
2. Click "Create your account now." The following page will ask you biographical information that will be used to create your profile. It will also ask you to create a password for your account.

a. Privacy Policy: Please review and check the agreement box. This contains information about how ApplyTexas stores and uses private information. If you have questions about the terms of the Privacy Policy, please contact ApplyTexas directly.

b. Full Legal Name: Enter your full legal last, first, and middle name. Please do not include diacritical marks such as accents (') or tildes (~). Do not use nicknames or abbreviations or commas because this information will be used for your official record if you enroll. Use your full legal name on all documents sent to the institution to which you are applying. If you have a passport, enter your name as it appears on your passport (without diacritical marks).

c. Date of Birth

d. Place of Birth

e. Current Grade Level: optional

f. *Are you a US citizen: Please answer this section accurately. If you have questions or need guidance, please see the diagram sheet titled Citizenship Question.*

Continue filling out the rest of your profile information.

3. Please record your username and password information so that you can easily save and access your application.
4. Choose to start a new blank application.
5. Choose create a new 4 year university admissions application
6. Choose the University of North Texas (Denton) as your Target University.
7. Choose application type: Freshman, US.
8. Choose a semester of entry.
9. Choose your first choice school. You may also choose a second choice school if you wish, or you may leave this choice blank.
10. Choose your major. If you selected a second choice school, you will also choose a second choice major.
11. Save each page of the application as you complete it.
12. If you do not have a Social Security Number, please leave that field blank.
13. Question 7 – Are you a US citizen? Answer this question accurately for your case. (See attached ApplyTexas example)
14. Residency Section Answer this question accurately for your case. (See attached ApplyTexas examples)
15. Once you have completed your information you must click submit my application now. Failure to do so will prevent your application from being transmitted to the University of North Texas. Applications submitted before 6pm will be received the next business day. Applications submitted after 6pm will be received within 2 business days. If you have any technical questions regarding the application, please use the ApplyTexas help menu. If you need assistance filling out the application or have a question about a submitted application, please call the UNT Office of Admissions at (940) 565-2681.

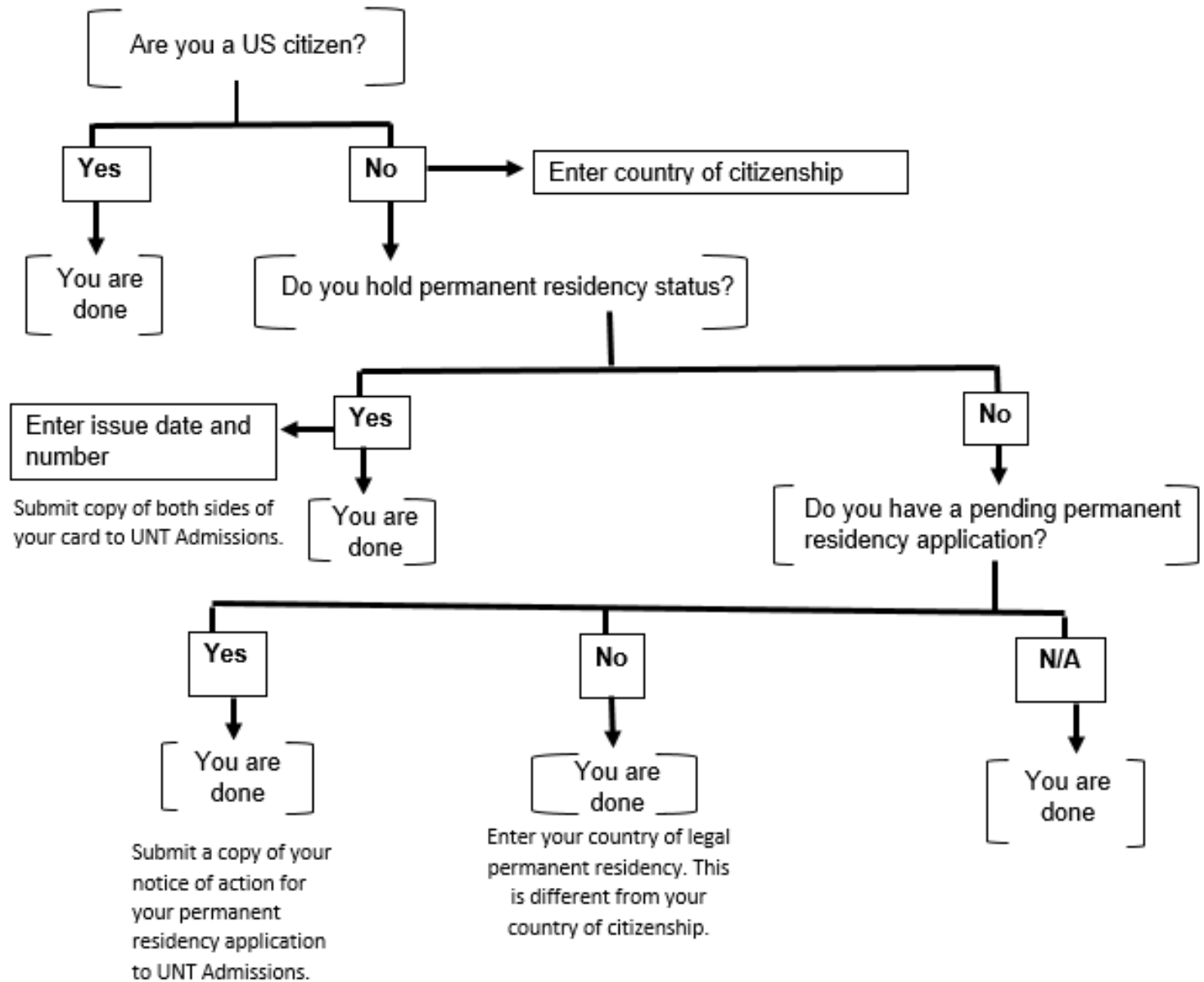
### **Financial Aid and Admissions Counseling**

TASFA applications opens in October. Submit your TASFA and SB 1528 Affidavit to Financial Aid as soon as possible! A copy of the TASFA and the link to the online application are located in your Tool Kit. Schedule a meeting with your UNT Admissions Counselor. Check your my.unt.edu account weekly for updates regarding your admission status and financial aid requirements!

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## Citizenship Question

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**AFFIDAVIT**

**STATE OF TEXAS**

§

**COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_**

§

§

Before me, the undersigned Notary Public, on this day personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_,

known to me, who being by me duly sworn upon his/her oath, deposed and said:

1. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ I am \_\_\_\_ years of age and have personal knowledge of the facts stated herein and they are all true and correct.
2. I graduated or will graduate from a Texas high school or received my GED certificate in Texas.
3. I resided in Texas for three years leading up to graduation from high school or receiving my GED certificate.
4. I have resided or will have resided in Texas for the 12 months prior the census date of the semester in which I will enroll in \_\_\_\_\_ (college/university).
5. I have filed or will file an application to become a permanent resident at the earliest opportunity that I am eligible to do so.

In witness whereof, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Printed Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(UNT Student I.D.# or DOB)

**SUBSCRIBED TO AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME**, on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, to certify which witness my hand and official seal.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

**Scan and email to: [unt.freshman@unt.edu](mailto:unt.freshman@unt.edu) - If you are a transfer student we will also need your high school transcript**

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# What is TASFA?

The Texas Application for State Financial Aid is used to collect information to help determine eligibility for state financial aid programs that are administered by institutions of higher education in the state of Texas. Students who are classified as Texas Residents who cannot apply for federal financial aid using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) are encouraged to complete the TASFA. Please note that Texas Residency can only be determined by the institution that you plan to attend. This application cannot be used to determine your state residency status or final eligibility for state aid.



Texas state priority deadline for many institutions of higher education will vary by college for the 2018-19 award year. It is recommended that applicants complete and submit this application and any other required documentation to the Financial Aid Office prior to the state priority deadline date. The Financial Aid Office starts taking applications October 1st.

## UNT SCHOLARSHIPS

The University of North Texas offers various scholarship opportunities to help you finance your education. A scholarship is a financial award given to a student on the basis of academic achievement and promise. Many scholarships are awarded based on merit. However, some also take into account financial need.

### Where to Start

Apply and be admitted to a UNT program.

Activate your MyUNT account.

Complete the General Scholarship Application: <https://unt.academicworks.com/>

Monitor your EagleConnect email account

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# Instructions:

- Request an 2017 IRS Tax Return Transcript either online, telephone, or by paper. Request either your parents' return or your own if you do file taxes.
- Download, fill out and print the 2018-2019 TASFA Application
- Before you turn in your application to the Financial Aid Office, make sure you gather the following documents
  - HB 1403/SB 1528 Residency affidavit (if it is your first time applying)
  - Completed TASFA Application
  - 2017 IRS Tax Return
- Turn in documents to the Financial Aid Office located in the Eagle Student Services Center at 155 Union Circle #311370 Denton, Texas 76203

2018-19 TASFA					
Texas Application for State Financial Aid					July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019
<p>The Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA) is used to collect information to help determine eligibility for state financial aid programs that are administered by institutions of higher education in the state of Texas. Students that are classified as a Texas Resident who cannot apply for federal financial aid using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) are encouraged to complete the TASFA. To review the FAFSA filing requirements, visit <a href="http://www.fafsa.ed.gov">www.fafsa.ed.gov</a> or visit the financial aid office at the institution you plan to attend for the 2018-19 award year. Please note that Texas Residency can only be determined by the institution that you plan to attend. This application cannot be used to determine your state residency status or final eligibility for state aid.</p> <p>To complete this application, each item within the applicable sections must be answered. <b>For clarification on specific items, please reference the Notes section. If you have further questions, contact the financial aid office at your institution.</b></p> <p>Texas state priority deadline for many institutions of higher education is <b>March 15, 2018</b> for the 2018-19 award year. It is recommended that applicants complete and submit this application and any other required documentation to the financial aid office prior to the state priority deadline date.</p>					
<b>STEP ONE: STUDENT INFORMATION (See Notes for questions 5-6)</b>					
1. Last Name			2. First Name	3. M.I.	
4. Date of Birth	5. Social Security Number or DACA # or Not Applicable <input type="checkbox"/>		6. College Student ID		
7. Permanent Mailing Address					
8. City	9. State	10. Zip Code	11. Phone Number		
12. Email Address			Alternate Email:		



## 2019-2020 TASFA APPLICATION



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# What kind of loans can DACA students receive?



- It is possible for DACA students to apply for private student loans, although there are a lot of hoops to jump through. Your DACA status can be used as proof that you are in the country legally. However, you also need good credit and proof of income in order to qualify for a loan without a cosigner.



Approved!



- Citizens Bank, for example, requires that international student borrowers have a creditworthy cosigner who is a U.S. citizen or permanent resident. Discover's student loans for international students have the same requirement. MPOWER Financing is one lender that doesn't require DACA students to have a cosigner.

# OUTSIDE SCHOLARSHIPS

**ANTHEM ESSAY:**

<https://www.aynrand.org/students/essay-contests#anthem-1>

**THE FOUNTAINHEAD ESSAY:**

<https://www.aynrand.org/students/essay-contests#overview>

**ATLAS SHRUGGED:**

<https://www.aynrand.org/students/essay-contests#atlasshrugged-1>

**SEG SCHOLARSHIP:**

<https://seg.org/Scholarships>

**HISPANIC SCHOLARSHIP FUND:**

<https://www.hsf.net/scholarship>

**GOLDEN DOOR SCHOLARS:**

<https://www.goldendoorscholars.org/apply.html>

**DIVERSITY CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP (MICROSOFT OFFICE):**

<https://careers.microsoft.com/us/en/usscholarshipprogram>

**HENAAC SCHOLARSHIP:**

<http://www.greatmindsinstem.org/college/henaac-scholarship-application-guidelines>

**SCHOLAR SERVE:**

<https://www.scholarserve.org/apply>

**LULF SCHOLARSHIP:**

<http://www.lulf.org/>

**SCHOLAR SHOT:**

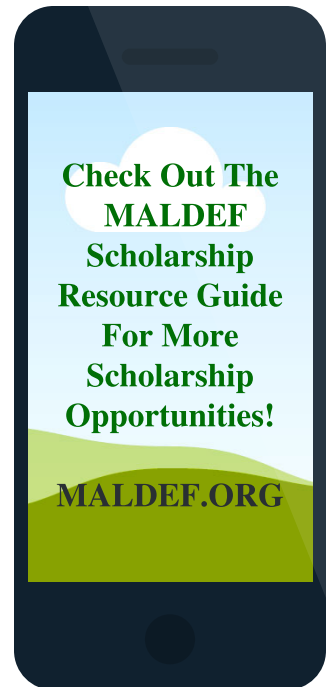
<https://scholarshot.fluidreview.com/>

**THE DREAM US:**

<https://www.thedream.us/>

**MALDEF SCHOLARSHIP**

<http://www.maldef.org/leadership/scholarships/index.html>





# UNT RESOURCES BY COLLEGE

## **BUSINESS:**

Christina Aguilar  
Christina.Aguilar@unt.edu  
940-369-8450

## **EDUCATION:**

Dr. Rossana Ramirez Boyd  
rossana.boyd@unt.edu  
940-565-2933

## **HONORS:**

Leslie Holmes  
Leslie.Holmes@unt.edu

## **HEALTH & PUBLIC SERVICE:**

Abraham David Benavides  
Abraham.Benavides@unt.edu  
940-565-3264

## **LIBERAL ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCE:**

Alina Salgado  
Alina.Salgado@unt.edu  
940-369-6520

## **MUSIC:**

Ana White  
Ana.White@unt.edu  
940-565-2381

## **SCIENCE:**

Cristina Garrido  
Cristina.Garrido@unt.edu  
940-369-8072

## **JOURNALISM:**

Stephanie Garza  
Stephanie.Garza@unt.edu  
940-369-8435

## **MERCHANDISING, HOSPITALITY, & TOURISM:**

Philip Aguinaga, M.Ed., LPC  
Philip.Aguinaga@unt.edu  
940-565-4635

## **VISUAL ARTS & DESIGN:**

Laura Hernandez  
Laura.Hernandez@unt.edu  
940-565-2216

## **UNT RESOURCE**

<https://www.unt.edu/daca>

# RESOURCES AT UNT

## **FINANCIAL AID:**

Tonya Glenn  
untstateaid@unt.edu  
940-565-2302

## **OUTREACH:**

Brenda Barajas  
Brenda.Barajas@unt.edu  
940-369-7519

## **HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTER:**

Dana Sachs  
dana.sachs@unt.edu  
940-565-2157

## **DEAN OF STUDENTS:**

Maureen McGuinness  
Maureen.McGuinness@unt.edu  
940-565-2648

## **EMERALD EAGLE SCHOLARS:**

emeraldeaglescholars@unt.edu  
940.369.5251

## **COUNSELING & TESTING:**

Rebecca Gonzalez  
940-565-2741

## **DISABILITY & ACCOMMODATIONS:**

Brianna  
Apply.ODA@unt.edu  
940-565-4323

## **STUDENT LEGAL SERVICES**

[https://studentaffairs.unt.edu  
/student-legal-services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services)  
StudentLegal@unt.edu  
(940) 565-2614



# RESOURCES DFW



**Opening Doors  
International  
Services**

(940) 382-0096

**International Rescue  
Committee**

<https://www.rescue.org/>  
(214) 461-9781

**North Texas Dream  
Team**

<http://www.northtexasdreamteam.org/>  
(877) 686-6838

**Justice for Our Neighbors**

<https://www.jfondfw.org>  
(817) 310-3820

**Catholic Charities Dallas**

<https://ccdallas.org/need-help/immigration-legal-services/>  
(214) 634-7182

**Immigrant Connection at  
Sent Church**

<http://www.sentchurch.cc/ministries/immigration-center/>  
(972) 737-3287

**Light of Hope  
Immigration Law  
Center**

<http://www.lohimmigration.org/index.html>  
(469) 229-0590

**Proyecto Inmigrante  
ICS, Inc.**

<http://www.proyectoimmigrante.org/>  
(888) 793-2182 ext. 3201

**Mexican Consulate  
Dallas**

<https://consulmex.sre.gob.mx/dallas>

# Citizenship Question

7. Are you a U.S. Citizen? - **REQUIRED**
☐ Yes ☒ No

Non-U.S. Citizens complete the following

a. If no, of what country are you a citizen?

Citizenship country 

b. Do you hold Permanent Residence status (valid I-551) for the U.S.?

If Yes, please submit a copy of both sides of the card.

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable - Reset Answer

c. If you are not a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, do you have an application for permanent residence (form I-485) pending with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)?

(If "Yes," submit a copy of your Notice of Action from the USCIS, form I-797C.)

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

d. If you have an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) and do NOT have a Social Security Number filled in above, please enter it below. Otherwise, please leave blank.

No spaces, dashes or letters.

ITIN: Confirm ITIN: 

e. If you are not a citizen or permanent resident or have no application pending with the USCIS, did you live or will you have lived in Texas for 36 consecutive months leading up to high school graduation or completion of the GED?

If "Yes," please submit a completed [Affidavit of Intent to Become a Permanent Resident](#).(This PDF document requires Adobe Acrobat Reader to access it: [Download Adobe Acrobat Reader now.](#))
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable
f. If you are not a U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent resident, are you a foreign national here with a **visa that makes you eligible to domicile for Texas residency purposes** ([see list of eligible visas](#)) or are you a Refugee, Asylee, Parolee or here under Temporary Protective Status?

(If you select an option below, please submit a copy of your Notice of Action from the USCIS, form I-797C, or a copy of your current visa.)

If so, indicate which 

# Residency Question

Page 6 of 9

## residency information

[delete residency answers & start over](#)

### Residency Information

About this section:

The college or university to which you are applying will use the information you provide in this section to determine your status for residency eligibility. This page will continue to reload with the questions appropriate for your particular situation. At the very end, there will be a text box for you to enter any additional information that you would like to provide. That page will be followed by a certification page where you will be asked to confirm that everything you entered was correct. It is extremely important that you take care when answering this section to provide accurate information.

During the 12 months prior to the term for which you are applying, did you attend a **public** college or university in Texas in a fall or spring term (excluding summer)? - **REQUIRED**
☐ Yes ☒ No
[save and continue to next question](#)

Page 6 of 9

## residency information

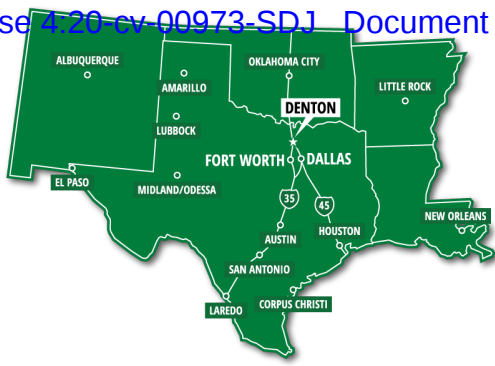
[delete residency answers & start over](#)

### Residency Information

Of what state or country are you a resident? - **REQUIRED**State/possession/province or country: Did you live or will you have lived in Texas for 36 consecutive months leading up to high school graduation or completion of the GED? - **REQUIRED**
☐ Yes ☐ No
When you begin the semester for which you are applying, will you have lived in Texas for the previous 12 months? - **REQUIRED**
☐ Yes ☐ No
[save and continue to next question](#)

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

1155 Union Circle #311277  
Denton, Texas 76203-5017  
Phone: 940-565-2681  
Toll free: 1-800-868-8211



*" Every great dream begins with a dreamer.  
Always remember, you have within you the  
strength, the patience, and the passion to reach  
for the stars to change the world."*

**-Harriet Tubman**



YCT00026



(<http://www.unt.edu>)

MYUNT (<https://my.unt.edu>) CANVAS (<https://canvas.unt.edu>)

EAGLECONNECT (<https://eagleconnect.unt.edu/>)

UNT DIRECTORY (/FIND-PEOPLE-DEPARTMENTS)

(L)



Admissions (<https://admissions.unt.edu/>) Academics (/academics)

# Support for DACA and undocumented students — A Message from the President

Student Life (/student-life) About UNT (/about-unt) Research (<https://research.unt.edu/>)

Locations (/locations) Athletics (<https://meangreensports.com/>) Giving (<http://giving.unt.edu/>)

Sept. 5, 2017

Dear UNT community,

Today, the Trump administration announced it would begin to roll back the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. This action is a blow to the aspirations of hundreds of thousands of “Dreamers,” including some of our students and alumni. The action threatens to derail the future of some of our nation’s most determined young adults and brightest minds.

While we learn more about how the administration intends to enact the changes, our university’s immediate concern is for how the rollback could negatively impact the wellbeing of our most vulnerable students — those who are DACA-certified or undocumented. I want to make clear that I unequivocally support DACA, undocumented and other students who are overcoming significant barriers to educational attainment. These students aspire to a better life and are doing what our society asks of them — they work hard, study hard and play by the rules. They want to use their talents and gifts to give back to their communities and our nation. We need to encourage them to stay focused, hopeful and invested in their education.

Like other university presidents nationwide, I call on Congress to swiftly pass bipartisan legislation that provides a permanent solution for these young people — a defined pathway that allows Dreamers to continue to live, work, study and achieve citizenship in the only nation many of them have ever known as home. In my role as UNT’s president, I will be visiting with our state-elected officials in hopes of maintaining eligibility for state financial aid and in-state tuition for our DACA and undocumented students.

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Often, I've spoken of our warm, caring and inclusive community and our respectful treatment of one another, regardless of national origin or immigration status. In every dimension of university life, we are enriched by the contributions of our students, faculty and staff. Even during these uncertain and somewhat turbulent times, our shared values of equity, diversity, inclusion and non-discrimination make us stronger. It's the UNT way. We must do everything possible to ensure that our students have access to the services and support necessary for them to thrive at UNT and graduate from their chosen degree programs.

I want to reiterate a few of our university's commitments, policies and procedures. UNT is strongly committed to the privacy of student records, including immigration status for all students, consistent with state and federal laws. Student records are otherwise not disseminated without student consent or a judicial order. In the performance of their duties, members of the UNT Police Department don't initiate law enforcement activities based solely on immigration status.

Students seeking assistance can find help from the following UNT areas:

- Students have access to free counseling through UNT's Counseling and Testing Services. Call 940-565-2741, stop by Chestnut Hall, suite 311, or learn more at [Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>).
- Students can receive free legal advice through UNT's student legal services office. Call 940-565-2614, email [studentlegal@unt.edu](mailto:studentlegal@unt.edu) (<mailto:studentlegal@unt.edu?subject=DACA%20Legal%20Advice>), stop by University Union, suite 411, or learn more at [Student Legal Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services>).
- UNT's Care Team is available to assist students who are struggling and may be in distress. Call 940-565-4373 to refer yourself or someone else to the Care Team.
- UNT's Multicultural Center provides an environment where all students can thrive. Call 940-565-3424, email [multicultural@unt.edu](mailto:multicultural@unt.edu) (<mailto:multicultural@unt.edu?subject=DACA>), stop by the University Union, suite 335 or learn more at [Multicultural Center](https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center) (<https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center>).
- UNT's Dean of Students is available for all students. Call 940-565-2648 or 940-565-2039 or stop by the University Union, suite 409.

Issues that impact students who are first-generation college students hit close to home for me and some other university administrators. Like most DACA and undocumented students enrolled at UNT, we were among the first in our families to pursue a better quality of life through higher education.



We know first-hand how foundational and empowering a college education is to personal and professional success, and we believe our students deserve the same opportunities. Our nation will be stronger for it.

In the days ahead as more information becomes available, we will share it. Please join me now in ensuring UNT continues to be a welcoming, supportive and caring community.

UNT Proud,  
Neal Smatresk  
President

(<https://www.linkedin.com/edu/school?>



(<https://www.unt.edu>)

YCT00029

[APPLY NOW >](#)[SCHEDULE A TOUR >](#)[GET MORE INFO >](#)

## Main Menu

[Home \(http://www.unt.edu\)](http://www.unt.edu)[Admissions \(https://admissions.unt.edu/\)](https://admissions.unt.edu/)[Academics \(/academics\)](/academics)[Student Life \(/student-life\)](/student-life)[About UNT \(/about-unt\)](/about-unt)[Research \(https://research.unt.edu/\)](https://research.unt.edu/)[Locations \(/locations\)](/locations)[Athletics \(https://meangreensports.com/\)](https://meangreensports.com/)[Giving \(http://giving.unt.edu/\)](http://giving.unt.edu/)

## University Links

[MyUNT \(https://my.unt.edu\)](https://my.unt.edu)[EagleConnect \(https://eagleconnect.unt.edu/\)](https://eagleconnect.unt.edu/)[Canvas \(https://canvas.unt.edu\)](https://canvas.unt.edu)[People & Departments \(/find-people-departments\)](/find-people-departments)[Libraries \(https://library.unt.edu/\)](https://library.unt.edu/)[Calendar \(http://calendar.unt.edu/\)](http://calendar.unt.edu/)[UNT Map \(http://maps.unt.edu/\)](http://maps.unt.edu/)[UNT News \(https://news.unt.edu/\)](https://news.unt.edu/)[Jobs at UNT \(https://jobs.untsystem.edu\)](https://jobs.untsystem.edu)[Mental Health Resources \(https://speakout.unt.edu/\)](https://speakout.unt.edu/)[Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access \(https://idea.unt.edu/\)](https://idea.unt.edu/)[Title IX & Sexual Misconduct Policy \(https://idea.unt.edu/title-ix\)](https://idea.unt.edu/title-ix)[COVID-19 Updates \(https://healthalerts.unt.edu\)](https://healthalerts.unt.edu)

## Specifically for

[Current Students \(/current-students\)](/current-students)[Faculty & Staff \(/faculty-staff\)](/faculty-staff)[Alumni & Friends \(/alumni-friends\)](/alumni-friends)[Parents & Family \(/parents-family\)](/parents-family)[Community \(/community\)](/community)

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# Support for DACA and undocumented students — A Message from the President

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Sept. 5, 2017

Dear UNT community,

Today, the Trump administration announced it would begin to roll back the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. This action is a blow to the aspirations of hundreds of thousands of “Dreamers,” including some of our students and alumni. The action threatens to derail the future of some of our nation’s most determined young adults and brightest minds.

While we learn more about how the administration intends to enact the changes, our university’s immediate concern is for how the rollback could negatively impact the wellbeing of our most vulnerable students — those who are DACA-certified or undocumented. I want to make clear that I unequivocally support DACA, undocumented and other students who are overcoming significant barriers to educational attainment. These students aspire to a better life and are doing what our society asks of them — they work hard, study hard and play by the rules. They want to use their talents and gifts to give back to their communities and our nation. We need to encourage them to stay focused, hopeful and invested in their education.

Like other university presidents nationwide, I call on Congress to swiftly pass bipartisan legislation that provides a permanent solution for these young people — a defined pathway that allows Dreamers to continue to live, work, study and achieve citizenship in the only nation many of them have ever known as home. In my role as UNT’s president, I will be visiting with our state-elected officials in hopes of maintaining eligibility for state financial aid and in-state tuition for our DACA and undocumented students.

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Often, I've spoken of our warm, caring and inclusive community and our respectful treatment of one another, regardless of national origin or immigration status. In every dimension of university life, we are enriched by the contributions of our students, faculty and staff. Even during these uncertain and somewhat turbulent times, our shared values of equity, diversity, inclusion and non-discrimination make us stronger. It's the UNT way. We must do everything possible to ensure that our students have access to the services and support necessary for them to thrive at UNT and graduate from their chosen degree programs.

I want to reiterate a few of our university's commitments, policies and procedures. UNT is strongly committed to the privacy of student records, including immigration status for all students, consistent with state and federal laws. Student records are otherwise not disseminated without student consent or a judicial order. In the performance of their duties, members of the UNT Police Department don't initiate law enforcement activities based solely on immigration status.

Students seeking assistance can find help from the following UNT areas:

- Students have access to free counseling through UNT's Counseling and Testing Services. Call 940-565-2741, stop by Chestnut Hall, suite 311, or learn more at [Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>).
- Students can receive free legal advice through UNT's student legal services office. Call 940-565-2614, email [studentlegal@unt.edu](mailto:studentlegal@unt.edu) (<mailto:studentlegal@unt.edu?subject=DACA%20Legal%20Advice>), stop by University Union, suite 411, or learn more at [Student Legal Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services>).
- UNT's Care Team is available to assist students who are struggling and may be in distress. Call 940-565-4373 to refer yourself or someone else to the Care Team.
- UNT's Multicultural Center provides an environment where all students can thrive. Call 940-565-3424, email [multicultural@unt.edu](mailto:multicultural@unt.edu) (<mailto:multicultural@unt.edu?subject=DACA>), stop by the University Union, suite 335 or learn more at [Multicultural Center](https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center) (<https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center>).
- UNT's Dean of Students is available for all students. Call 940-565-2648 or 940-565-2039 or stop by the University Union, suite 409.

Issues that impact students who are first-generation college students hit close to home for me and some other university administrators. Like most DACA and undocumented students enrolled at UNT, we were among the first in our families to pursue a better quality of life through higher education.

We know first-hand how foundational and empowering a college education is to personal and professional success, and we believe our students deserve the same opportunities. Our nation will be stronger for it.

In the days ahead as more information becomes available, we will share it. Please join me now in ensuring UNT continues to be a welcoming, supportive and caring community.

UNT Proud,  
Neal Smatresk  
President

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